

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 19, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-16 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-15 stand rejected. Claim 16 is newly added. No new matter has been added.

A fee calculation sheet for the newly added claim along with authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of the calculated fee is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,499,227 to Jacobson (hereinafter referred to as “Jacobson”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0084495 to Rudeen et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Rudeen”) or U.S. Patent No. 5,934,530 to Antczak et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Antczak”) is respectfully traversed.

Jacobson describes a sports glove drying device. More specifically, Jacobson describes a securing strap 35 that couples an accessory 10 to a pole 20 of a golf cart 15. A second end 32 of securing strap 35 wraps around pole 20 and is pulled through a latch 70 to secure strap 35 against pole 20. A first end 34 of securing strap 35 *extends a distance outwardly from pole 20 and away from golf cart 15.* (Emphasis added.) A card 40 is coupled to and suspended from the portion of securing strap 35 extending outwardly from pole 20. Card 40 includes a glove attachment device 50 for securing the glove thereto to facilitate drying the glove. Notably, Jacobson does not describe or suggest a support that defines a longitudinal axis and an apparatus that defines a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of the apparatus, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with the longitudinal axis.

Rudeen describes a carrier device for transporting a golfer's accessory items. More specifically, Rudeen describes a device 100 that attaches to an individual's apparel such that

all of the accessory items are conveniently accessible during a game of golf. Device 100 engages an individual's belt or the top of the individual's pants. Carrier device 100 includes, *inter alia*, a glove attachment surface 210 that is configured to engage a portion of a golf glove such that the glove can be stored when not being used by the individual.

Antczak describes a golf accessory organizer that allows a golfer to comfortably carry and easily access golf items. More specifically, Antczak describes a supporting member 1 that is curved to substantially conform to a golfer's waist and is designed to attach to a belt or waistband using a clip 23. Supporting member 1 includes, *inter alia*, a hook and loop area 19 for attaching a golf glove 53.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection is not a proper rejection because the cited art does not provide some teaching, suggestion, or incentive that supports combining the cited art. As is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. In contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Jacobson with Rudeen and/or Antczak, because there is no teaching, motivation, or suggestion to combine the references. The Examiner has only provided the conclusory statement that it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the securing strap 35 of Jacobson in order to facilitate coupling and removing the glove to the golf cart. Applicant traverses this assertion. It would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify or combine Jacobson with Rudeen and/or Antczak. For example, Jacobson, Ellenburg and Passafiume (discussed below) describe a device having a member extending outwardly from a golf cart support in order to dry a golf glove. Rudeen and Antczak simply describe accessory organizers that attach to a golfer's waist, allowing the golfer to access golf items while playing. One having ordinary skill in the art, after reviewing the cited references, would not be motivated to combine the references because they have separate functionalities and purposes.

Since there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art for the combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicant requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn.

Moreover, and to the extent understood, none of Jacobson, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests the claimed invention. Claim 1 recites a golf cart comprising “a support having at least one external surface and defining a longitudinal axis; and an apparatus for coupling a glove to said support, said apparatus defining a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of said apparatus, said centerline axis of symmetry coaxial with said longitudinal axis, said apparatus comprising a body comprising an inner surface and an outer surface, said body coupled to said golf cart such that said inner surface remains in substantial contact against said at least one external surface during operation of said golf cart, said body comprising at least one first fastening mechanism coupled to said body inner surface, said at least one first fastening mechanism coupling said body to said support, said body outer surface comprising at least one second fastening mechanism for removably coupling the glove directly to said body such that the glove remains coupled to said apparatus during operation of said golf cart.”

None of Jacobson, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Jacobson, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart that includes a support defining a longitudinal axis and an apparatus defining a centerline axis of symmetry that extends between a first end and an opposing second end of the apparatus, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with the longitudinal axis. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Jacobson describes a sports glove drying device that attaches to a pole 20 of golf cart 15 via a securing strap 35, wherein a first end 34 of securing strap 35 extends a distance outwardly from pole 20 and away from golf cart 15. Thus, the securing strap 35 cannot have a centerline axis of symmetry. Rudeen and Antczak simply

describe accessory organizers that attach to a golfer's waist and allow the golfer to carry and access golf items. The organizers include surfaces (e.g., a Velcro® hook and loop fastener) for holding a golf glove.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Jacobson alone, and Jacobson in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 2 and 4-6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2 and 4-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2 and 4-6 likewise are patentable over Jacobson alone, and Jacobson in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 and the alternative Section 103 rejections of Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,983,518 to Ellenburg (hereinafter referred to as "Ellenburg") in view of Rudeen or Antczak is respectfully traversed.

Rudeen and Antczak are described above. Ellenburg describes a golf glove dryer 10 that attaches to a golf cart. Golf glove dryer 10 includes a hollow shell 12 having a first open end 14 and a second open end 16. *A shaft 19 extends outwardly from a clamp 20 to couple to glove dryer 10.* (Emphasis added.) Clamp 20 is coupled to a roof support 32 of the golf cart such that hollow shell 12 is positioned exterior to the golf cart. A glove 36 is positioned over second end 16 and glove wrist fastener 38 is secured to glove wrist portion 40 thereby securing glove 36 around hollow shell 12. Cross members 18 hold glove 36 in an open position, allowing air flow through hollow shell 12 into glove 36. Notably, Ellenburg does not describe or suggest a support that defines a longitudinal axis and an apparatus that defines a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of the apparatus, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with the longitudinal axis.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection is not a proper rejection because the cited art does not provide some teaching, suggestion, or incentive that supports combining the cited art. As is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. In contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Ellenburg with Rudeen and/or Antczak, because there is no teaching, motivation, or suggestion to combine the references. The Examiner has only provided the conclusory statement that it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the glove dryer 10 of Ellenburg in order to facilitate coupling and removing the glove to the golf cart. Applicant traverses this assertion. It would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify or combine Ellenburg with Rudeen and/or Antczak. For example, Ellenburg describes a device having a member extending outwardly from a golf cart support in order to dry a golf glove. Rudeen and Antczak simply describe accessory organizers that attach to a golfer's waist, allowing the golfer to access golf items while playing. One having ordinary skill in the art, after reviewing the cited references, would not be motivated to combine the references because they have separate functionalities and purposes.

Since there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art for the combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicant requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn.

Moreover, and to the extent understood, none of Ellenburg, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests the claimed invention. Claim 1 recites a golf cart comprising "a support having at least one external surface and defining a longitudinal axis; and an apparatus for coupling a glove to said support, said apparatus defining a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of said apparatus, said centerline axis of symmetry coaxial with said longitudinal axis,

said apparatus comprising a body comprising an inner surface and an outer surface, said body coupled to said golf cart such that said inner surface remains in substantial contact against said at least one external surface during operation of said golf cart, said body comprising at least one first fastening mechanism coupled to said body inner surface, said at least one first fastening mechanism coupling said body to said support, said body outer surface comprising at least one second fastening mechanism for removably coupling the glove directly to said body such that the glove remains coupled to said apparatus during operation of said golf cart.”

None of Ellenburg, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Ellenburg, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart that includes a support defining a longitudinal axis and an apparatus defining a centerline axis of symmetry that extends between a first end and an opposing second end of the apparatus, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with the longitudinal axis. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Ellenburg describes a golf glove dryer 10 that couples to a shaft 19 via a clamp 20 extending outwardly from the shaft 19. Thus, glove dryer 10 cannot have a centerline axis of symmetry. Rudeen and Antczak simply describe accessory organizers that attach to a golfer’s waist and allow the golfer to carry and access golf items. The organizers include surfaces (e.g., a Velcro® hook and loop fastener) for holding a golf glove.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Ellenburg alone, and Ellenburg in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 2-6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-6 likewise are patentable over Ellenburg alone, and Ellenburg in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claim 7 recites a golf cart including “a passenger compartment; a dashboard adjacent to said passenger compartment; a roof extending over at least a portion of said passenger compartment; a support defining a longitudinal axis, said support extending from at least one of said passenger compartment, said dashboard, and said roof; and a glove drying system coupled to an external surface of said support, said glove drying system defining a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of said system, said centerline axis of symmetry coaxial with said longitudinal axis of said support, said system comprising a body comprising an inner surface and an outer surface, said body coupled to said support such that substantially all of said inner surface remains against said support external surface during operation of said golf cart, said body outer surface comprises at least one fastening mechanism for removably coupling an outer surface of a glove directly to said system such that the glove remains coupled to said fastening mechanism between said first end and said second end during operation of said golf cart.”

None of Ellenburg, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart as recited in Claim 7. More specifically, none of Ellenburg, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart that includes a glove drying system that defines a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of the system, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with a longitudinal axis of a golf cart support. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Ellenburg describes a golf glove dryer 10 that includes a shaft 19 that extends outwardly from a clamp 20 to couple to glove dryer 10. Thus, glove dryer 10 cannot have a centerline axis of symmetry. Rudeen and Antczak simply describe accessory organizers that attach to a golfer’s waist and allow the golfer to carry and access golf items. The organizers include surfaces (e.g., a Velcro® hook and loop fastener) for holding a golf glove.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Ellenburg alone, and Ellenburg in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 8-12 depend from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 8-12 likewise are patentable over Ellenburg alone, and Ellenburg in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 and the alternative Section 103 rejections of Claims 1-12 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0138953 to Passafiume (hereinafter referred to as “Passafiume”) in view of Rudeen or Antczak is respectfully traversed.

Rudeen and Antczak are described above. Passafiume describes a golf glove holder 10 adapted to be mounted to a golf cart frame member 12. Golf glove holder 10 includes a main body 30 and an attachment member 50 affixed to main body 30 for attachment of golf glove holder 10 to golf cart body frame member 12. The golf glove holder is configured to releasably hold an interior wrist sweat band of a golf glove 20 about main body 30 such that air flowing through main body 30 is directed into glove 20. Preferably, the golf glove holder comprises a strip 32 of nylon hook material adhesively affixed to an outer circumference of one end of main body 30. Strip 32 is adapted to releasably hold the golf glove wrist sweat band. Attachment member 50 is affixed to main body 30 and includes a clamp portion 52 for attachment to frame member 12. Preferably, clamp portion 52 is C-shaped in cross-section with flexible extending arms 56 and 58 adapted to wrap around a portion of frame member 12. An adjustable strap 64 extends between arms 56 and 58 to force the arms against frame member 12 thereby securing golf glove holder 10 to frame member 12. Notably, Passafiume does not describe or suggest a support that defines a longitudinal axis and an apparatus that defines a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of the apparatus, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with the longitudinal axis.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection is not a proper rejection because the cited art does not provide some teaching, suggestion, or incentive that supports combining the cited art. As is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. In contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Passafiume with Rudeen and/or Antczak, because there is no teaching, motivation, or suggestion to combine the references. The Examiner has only provided the conclusory statement that it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the golf glove holder 10 of Passafiume in order to facilitate coupling and removing the glove to the golf cart. Applicant traverses this assertion. It would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify or combine Jacobson with Rudeen and/or Antczak. For example, Passafiume describes a device having a member extending outwardly from a golf cart support in order to dry a golf glove. Rudeen and Antczak simply describe accessory organizers that attach to a golfer's waist, allowing the golfer to access golf items while playing. One having ordinary skill in the art, after reviewing the cited references, would not be motivated to combine the references because they have separate functionalities and purposes.

Since there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art for the combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicant requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 recites a golf cart comprising "a support having at least one external surface and defining a longitudinal axis; and an apparatus for coupling a glove to said support, said apparatus defining a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of said apparatus, said centerline axis of symmetry coaxial with said longitudinal axis, said apparatus comprising a body comprising an inner surface and an outer surface, said body coupled to said golf cart such that said inner surface remains in substantial

contact against said at least one external surface during operation of said golf cart, said body comprising at least one first fastening mechanism coupled to said body inner surface, said at least one first fastening mechanism coupling said body to said support, said body outer surface comprising at least one second fastening mechanism for removably coupling the glove directly to said body such that the glove remains coupled to said apparatus during operation of said golf cart.”

None of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart that includes a support defining a longitudinal axis and an apparatus defining a centerline axis of symmetry that extends between a first end and an opposing second end of the apparatus, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with the longitudinal axis. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Passafiume describes a golf glove holder 10 that includes a main body 30 and an attachment member 50 affixed to main body 30. Attachment member 50 includes a clamp portion 52 with flexible extending arms 56 and 58 adapted to wrap around a portion of frame member 12. Thus, golf glove holder 10 cannot have a centerline axis of symmetry. Rudeen and Antczak simply describe accessory organizers that attach to a golfer’s waist and allow the golfer to carry and access golf items. The organizers include surfaces (e.g., a Velcro® hook and loop fastener) for holding a golf glove.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Passafiume alone, and Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 2-6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-6 likewise are patentable over Passafiume alone, and Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claim 7 recites a golf cart including “a passenger compartment; a dashboard adjacent to said passenger compartment; a roof extending over at least a portion of said passenger

compartment; a support defining a longitudinal axis, said support extending from at least one of said passenger compartment, said dashboard, and said roof; and a glove drying system coupled to an external surface of said support, said glove drying system defining a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of said system, said centerline axis of symmetry coaxial with said longitudinal axis of said support, said system comprising a body comprising an inner surface and an outer surface, said body coupled to said support such that substantially all of said inner surface remains against said support external surface during operation of said golf cart, said body outer surface comprises at least one fastening mechanism for removably coupling an outer surface of a glove directly to said system such that the glove remains coupled to said fastening mechanism between said first end and said second end during operation of said golf cart.”

None of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart as recited in Claim 7. More specifically, none of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a golf cart that includes a glove drying system that defines a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of the system, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with a longitudinal axis of a golf cart support. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Passafiume describes a golf glove holder 10 that includes a main body 30 and an attachment member 50 affixed to main body 30. Attachment member 50 includes a clamp portion 52 with flexible extending arms 56 and 58 adapted to wrap around a portion of frame member 12. Thus, golf glove holder 10 cannot have a centerline axis of symmetry. Rudeen and Antczak simply describe accessory organizers that attach to a golfer’s waist and allow the golfer to carry and access golf items. The organizers include surfaces (e.g., a Velcro® hook and loop fastener) for holding a golf glove.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Passafiume alone, and Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 8-12 depend from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicant submits that

dependent Claims 8-12 likewise are patentable over Passafiume alone, and Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claim 13 recites a method of drying a damp golf glove that includes “providing a golf glove drying system that includes a body having an inner surface and an outer surface extending between a first end and an opposite second end; coupling the golf glove drying system to a support of a golf cart such that substantially all of the body inner surface between the first end and the second end remains in contact with an external surface of the support during operation of the golf cart, the golf glove drying system coupled to the support such that the system defines a centerline axis of symmetry extending between the first end and the second end, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with a longitudinal axis defined by the support; securing the golf glove drying system to the external surface of the support using at least one first fastening mechanism adjacent the body first end and at least one second fastening mechanism adjacent the body second end; and removably coupling an outer surface of a golf glove to the golf cart using at least one third fastening mechanism extending from the body outer surface, such that the golf glove remains suspended from the golf glove drying system between the first end and the second end during operation of the golf cart.”

None of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a method of drying a damp golf glove as recited in Claim 13. More specifically, none of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a method that includes coupling a golf glove drying system to a golf cart support such that the system defines a centerline axis of symmetry extending between the first end and the second end, wherein the centerline axis of symmetry is coaxial with a longitudinal axis defined by the support. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Passafiume describes coupling a golf glove holder 10 that includes a main body 30 and an attachment member 50 to a frame member 12, wherein attachment member 50 includes a clamp portion 52 with flexible extending arms 56 and 58 adapted to wrap around a portion of frame member 12. Rudeen and Antczak simply describe attaching golf gloves to a surface of an accessory organizer.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted to be patentable over Passafiume alone, and Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 14 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 14 and 15 likewise are patentable over Passafiume alone, and Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 and the alternative Section 103 rejections of Claims 1-15 be withdrawn.

With respect to newly added Claim 16, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited art, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests Applicant's claimed invention. More specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited art, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests an apparatus for coupling a golf glove to a support of a golf cart, the support having at least one external surface and defining a longitudinal axis, the apparatus "defining a centerline axis of symmetry extending between a first end and an opposing second end of said apparatus and coaxial with the longitudinal axis of the support, said apparatus comprising a body comprising an inner surface and an outer surface, and at least one first fastening mechanism coupled to said body inner surface for coupling said body to the support, said body outer surface comprising at least one second fastening mechanism for removably coupling the glove directly to said body."

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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